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Prevention of armed conflict

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Letter dated 28 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia of 27 July 2006 over the ongoing developments in the Kodori Gorge (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 12 and 32.

(*Signed*) Revaz **Adamia**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 28 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia over the ongoing developments in the Kodori Gorge

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues intensive consultations with the international organizations and other sides concerned over the ongoing police operation in the Kodori Gorge.

A meeting between Irakli Alasania, appointed as Representative of Georgia to the United Nations, and Ivo Petrov, Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Georgia, was held in Tbilisi on 27 July 2006.

Mr. Alasania updated in detail Mr. Petrov on the ongoing police operation in the Kodori Gorge aimed at restoring the constitutional order and ensuring safety of the local population.

According to Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Georgia Ivo Petrov, implementation of the police operation does not endanger the work of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia.

The sides underlined that the measures in the Kodori Gorge are carried out in full compliance with the commitments assumed by Georgia under the international treaties and bear an anti-criminal character. It was noted that the Georgian side keeps in contact with both the CIS Peacekeeping Forces Commander and the Abkhaz de facto authorities.

Mr. Alasania and Mr. Petrov spoke also of the readiness expressed by the Abkhazian de facto authorities to hold the second meeting of the Coordination Council of the Georgian and Russian sides in the near future. Mr. Alasania noted that Georgia attaches a great importance to the expression of a bilateral dialogue while, against the existing background, the continuation of work within the Council will, in his opinion, have a positive effect.

Having a telephone conversation with Mr. Alasania, Commander of the Russian Peacekeeping Forces Sergei Chaban stated that the situation in the security zone is stable and nothing endangers the fulfilment of functions by the peacekeeping forces. Representatives of the Abkhazian de facto authorities registered the same position.

Today, State Minister for Conflict Resolution Merab Antadze and First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Valeri Chechelashvili held a telephone conversation with First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Andrei Denisov.

Mr. Denisov was briefed on the ongoing police operation in the Kodori Gorge. It was underlined that the police operation is taking place successfully, in keeping with the plan and that a large amount of ammunition had been seized.

It was noted that the units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs are acting in consistency with the Georgian Legislation and the international commitments undertaken by Georgia.

The sides expressed hope that the strengthening of order and the rule of law in the Kodori Gorge will facilitate a full-scale political settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia.

The sides agreed to keep up consultations on the aforesaid, as well as on other issues.

Tbilisi, 27 July 2006